



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 25, 2008  
Week Ending: August 24, 2008  
CWP WA-CW3208

## Rain Slows Grain Harvest as Apple Growers Prepare for Picking Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.2. Rains in eastern Washington slowed down the grain harvest. Growers were concerned about sprout damage to unharvested fields, but no reports have been noted. In general, winter wheat harvest was moving along well prior to the rain, and Adams County reported to be finished. But, due to the cool, wet spring, a significant amount of spring grain still needed to be harvested. Garfield County reported some wind and hailstone damage to cereal grain fields. Grays Harbor County reported cannery pea harvest was in full swing and yields were good. Christmas tree growers reported continued aphid infestations in Noble fir. Throughout the State, second and third cutting of hay was damaged by rain.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, Bartlett pear, peaches and nectarine harvests continued. The lighter green hop cones were becoming more pronounced in hop yards, and producers anticipated a good crop. Orchard mowing and tree propping was done in orchards. Harvest bins were being distributed in apple orchards with the harvest of the earlier varieties anticipated shortly. Skagit County reported blueberry harvest was ongoing but delayed by rain. Chelan County reported pear harvest was in progress. Yields were reported to be average with above average quality.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent very poor, 48 percent poor, 21 percent fair and 26 percent good. On the west side of the Cascades, rain was welcomed. Growers were optimistic that pasture growth would be prolonged. On the east side, range and timber fires burned significant amounts of acreage. Walla Walla County reported mountain grass continued to look good.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.2
Last Week	6.9

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	35	39	17
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	25	35	39	1
Subsoil	18	48	34	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	20	36	44	0
Irrigation Water	0	9	90	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	2	22	67	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

#### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	56	51	85	83
Winter Wheat Harvested	86	68	95	90
Barley Harvested	51	50	82	82
Potatoes Harvested	51	36	40	42
Field Corn Silked	100	99	89	98
Field Corn Doughed	41	40	46	53
Field Corn Dented	12	10	28	36
Field Corn Mature	6	NA	7	11
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	23	5	14	14
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	15	NA	16	21
Dry Peas Harvested	90	89	91	93
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	97	96	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	53	52	57	73

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	1	18	80	1
Corn	0	1	35	64	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	10	52	38	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wakiakum:** Temperatures reached the 100 degree mark at the beginning of the week. After that, many thunderstorms rolled through the area bringing rain every day.

**Grays Harbor:** Cannery pea harvest was in full swing with fair to good yields reported. The better yields were from the earliest fields that were planted. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report excellent yields and fruit quality due to the past several weeks of warm temperatures. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir. Most growers were focused on top working Noble fir and shearing other species. Sweet corn had tasseled out. Livestock growers were kept busy pulling tansy ragwort. Cut flower daffodil growers finished digging bulbs. Commercial cut flower peony growers were gearing up to begin digging and dividing plants in September.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Rain was welcomed in the counties. Hopefully, it will help the pastures keep going a bit longer.

**Mason:** In the past ten days 2.5 inches of rain was received. Tomatoes were ripening, but corn was late.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. There were no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 74 degrees and there was nearly 2.0 inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU NW Extension

center in Mount Vernon. Pea harvest continued. Wheat harvest was underway but half of the crop was still in the field. The rain was expected to make the wheat sprout which will make it less valuable and have to be sold as cattle feed. The cabbage seed crop yields were expected to be reduced due to the rain.

**Snohomish/North King:** Rain showers--over 0.5 inch in some areas--were received early in the week. Blueberry and early apple harvest continued.

**Thurston:** Ag producers welcomed 0.5 inch of rain early in the week. Although the moisture did little to alleviate drought conditions, it did help reduce the fire danger throughout the county. By the end of the week, temperatures rose back into the mid-80s allowing ag producers to continue with field harvest. The blueberry harvest peaked with growers finishing up with late bearing varieties like Rubel. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Most growers reported the warm temperatures caused aphid infestations in Noble fir. Livestock producers continued pulling tansy ragwort from pastures and hay fields. Organic vegetable growers reported the recent weeks of warm temperatures expedited crop maturity on tomatoes, potatoes, beets, carrots and other warm season vegetables. Turfgrass growers continued mowing, fertilizing, and harvesting spring planted fields. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to harvested forage fields.

## Central

**Benton:** More rain was needed for winter wheat planting.

**Chelan:** Pear harvest was in full swing with average yields and above average quality reported. Early variety apple harvest will begin soon.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Light rains were received over the weekend. Winter wheat harvest continued. Yields were average to below average. Winter wheat seeding began, but the rain may cause replanting in some areas. Pear harvest began. The crop looked good, but volume was slightly down from last year.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were cooler than normal, and rain was received during the week. The third cutting of hay was progressing, though the rain soaked it pretty good. The cool spring weather also delayed the second cutting of alfalfa. Apple harvest continued for earlier varieties. Nectarine harvest continued. Buckwheat was coming up nicely. Potato and sweet corn harvest continued. Bean harvest began. Producers were waiting for the rain to pass before beginning to plant fall wheat.

**Klickitat:** Daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s and overnight temperatures in the 40s and 50s was a welcome relief after the intense heat of the prior

week. Heavy thunderstorms plagued the area early in the week, while sunnier days in the 80s arrived in time for the weekend. The inclement weather slowed the progress of the wheat harvest.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rainfall during the week amounted to 0.14 inch which slowed crop harvesting.

**Yakima:** Daytime highs were in the 100s early in the week, and temperatures gradually cooled to the mid-70s to lower 80s as the week progressed. Widespread thundershowers on August 18 and 19 contributed 0.07 to 0.3 inch of precipitation throughout the county. Bartlett pear, peaches, and nectarine harvests continued. The lighter green hop cones were becoming more pronounced in hop yards as producers anticipated a good crop. Orchard mowing and tree propping were done in orchards. Harvest bins were being distributed in apple orchards with the harvest of earlier varieties anticipated shortly.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from eight degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with 0.04 inch of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest was complete, and winter wheat seeding got into full swing as the week progressed.

**Asotin:** Intermittent showers delayed the conclusion of harvest for some growers in the higher elevations.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain ranging from 0.25 inch to over 1.0 inch was received early in the week and halted harvest. There was still a substantial amount of wheat and barley left to harvest. Producers were concerned about sprout damage to unharvested crops. The cooler weather and rain brought relief and somewhat reduced the extremely high fire danger.

**Ferry:** Light precipitation was received over the weekend. Winter wheat yields were below normal.

**Garfield:** The weather conditions for the week were cold rain, high winds, and hailstones. Some growers lost 70 percent of unharvested cereal fields. Ironically, the spring barley crop was too green to cut in many locations.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat harvest was mostly complete, and spring cereal harvest was slowed by precipitation.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Wildfires burned all week in the north central areas of the county causing destruction to corrals, fences, and livestock. Over 19,000 acres of mostly rangeland and timber have burned so far. Grain harvest progressed intermittently with interruptions of rain in some areas. Yields in the higher rainfall regions were reported to be average to below average.

**Pend Oreille:** The temperature high during the week was 89 degrees and the low was 43 with 1.0 inch of precipitation received. Rainstorms brought much

needed rain. Haying continued for irrigated farms. The second cutting was in and the third cutting of grass was almost ready to harvest. Livestock was fattening up on pasture grasses.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Very little harvesting took place during the week due to the cooler wet weather. Winter wheat yields were reported to be average to below average. With more wet weather predicted growers were worried about possible sprout damage on crops.

**Stevens:** About 1.5 inches of precipitation was received during the week as several cold fronts moved into the area. Temperatures fell to the mid-70s for a high and lows in the upper 30s.

**Walla Walla:** A small amount of rain was received which was just enough to stop harvest and haying for a day. The rain was not enough to help the soil moisture though. Mountain grass looked good.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain during the week slowed harvest. Some areas experienced heavy rainfall which raised concerns of sprout damage in wheat that had not been harvested. Yields varied from average and slightly above to below average. The winter wheat had better yields and spring wheat yields were worse.

**Whitman:** A thunderstorm during the week brought 1.0 inch of rain to the area which shut down harvest activity. Concerns were expressed over quality damage to winter wheat due to the rainfall and cooler temperatures.

Weekly Weather Statistics  
Week of August 18 - 24, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
-----															
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	48	79	62	-1	85	-1	15	-6	1.15	+0.80	5	28.89	-6.98	81	176
Everett	54	79	64	+2	102	+11	32	+4	1.09	+0.74	5	34.16	-2.02	94	193
Hoquiam	52	74	61	-2	80	-4	10	-11	2.07	+1.69	5	58.06	-9.45	86	203
Kelso	48	84	65	+1	106	+8	36	+1	0.86	+0.49	5	31.87	-14.31	69	140
Olympia	48	84	64	+1	96	+5	26	-2	1.37	+1.03	4	44.26	-6.01	88	175
Seattle-Tacoma	54	80	64	-2	101	-4	31	-10	1.79	+1.51	4	35.65	-1.25	97	168
Shelton	48	83	62	-3	86	-18	16	-26	2.59	+2.28	5	58.71	-5.83	91	171
Tacoma WA AP	48	83	63	-2	96	-4	29	-6	1.44	+1.09	4	32.79	-7.17	82	156
Vancouver WA	50	86	67	+4	124	+22	54	+19	0.99	+0.68	5	36.53	-4.47	89	161
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	90	68	+2	127	+10	57	+4	0.03	-0.07	1	6.78	-2.04	77	68
Omak AP	41	100	69	+3	132	+19	62	+13	0.33	+0.05	3	7.85	-7.01	53	67
Stampede Pass	43	72	55	+0	43	-4	6	-1	1.41	+0.90	5	72.37	-8.15	90	198
Wenatchee	51	94	71	-2	147	-6	77	-7	0.00	-0.13	0	4.33	-3.86	53	45
Yakima AP	42	89	69	+1	132	+4	63	+2	0.04	-0.06	2	5.99	-1.85	76	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	43	102	68	+3	125	+17	56	+11	1.03	+0.75	3	17.32	-3.65	83	126
Deer Park	34	97	63	-5	93	-29	31	-26	0.60	+0.39	3	20.63	+2.28	112	137
Republic	41	98	68	+7	130	+42	62	+29	0.53	+0.25	3	11.79	-3.85	75	104
Spokane AP	44	95	67	-1	121	-2	52	-6	0.32	+0.14	4	16.43	+0.12	101	124
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	99	71	-3	152	-10	82	-10	0.14	+0.07	3	4.30	-2.86	60	69
Moses Lake	43	98	70	-4	141	-21	71	-21	0.08	+0.01	2	4.34	-2.82	61	68
Quincy	48	102	69	+0	137	+0	67	-1	0.25	+0.17	2	6.92	-0.78	90	71
Ritzville	43	106	68	-1	127	+2	59	+0	0.36	+0.22	3	9.36	-1.84	84	89
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	48	101	73	-4	161	-24	91	-24	0.03	-0.04	1	3.83	-2.58	60	46
Pasco	46	101	71	-2	152	-8	82	-8	0.28	+0.16	3	7.11	-0.30	96	72
Pullman	42	94	65	+1	109	+1	41	-6	1.12	+0.91	4	18.02	-2.89	86	121
Walla Walla Rgn	52	95	72	-2	159	-6	89	-6	0.36	+0.15	3	13.80	-5.51	71	111
Whitman Mission	43	106	71	+3	147	+13	78	+11	0.32	+0.18	4	12.17	-1.45	89	115
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	51	108	73	+1	166	+6	96	+6	0.51	+0.30	3	8.09	-4.16	66	98

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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